

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Docking buffer to be attached to ramps, especially loading ramps and loading bridges, with elastic damping element (3) between two U-shaped parts (1;2) made of hard, shock-resistant material the limbs of which (4;5 and 6;7) are located next to one another and can be displaced in relation to one another, ~~characterized by, wherein~~ the limbs (4;5) of the U-shaped part (2) are convergent around an angle (α) deviating from 90° to a base plate (9) and the limb (6;7) of the U-shaped part (1) are convergent around an angle (α) deviating from 90° to a base plate (8), whereby the opening widths between the ends of the limbs (4;5) and (6;7) and the sizes of the angles ($\alpha; \beta$) are selected so that the limbs (4;5) enclose limbs (6;7).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Docking buffer in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized by wherein~~ the size of the angle ($\alpha; \beta$) ~~are is~~ selected, depending on the lengths of limbs (4;5;6;7), so that in cases of unilateral impact of the U-shaped

part (2) its limbs (4;5) cannot spatially avoid the enclosing of limbs (6;7).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) : Docking buffer in accordance with claim 1 ~~and 2~~, ~~characterized by~~, comprising the limbs (6;7) being welded to a base plate (8) and form U-shaped part (1).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) : Docking buffer in accordance with claim 1 ~~to 3~~, ~~characterized by~~, wherein the docking buffer ~~so that it is~~ attached to a ramp (12) with the base plate (8) by means of a mechanically detachable connection (11).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) : Docking buffer in accordance with claim 1 ~~to 4~~, ~~characterized by~~, comprising a supporting device, preferably punched sheet-metal or grid, being attached on the bottom end of the U-shaped part (1).